SAFETY MESSAGE

Your Personal Safety is our #1 Priority

Staying on the Safe Side of Oxidizers

Oxidizers Are Dangerous

Oxidizers are unpredictable

Oxidizers are chemicals that release large amounts of oxygen into the air.

If you work with oxidizers, you know they are dangerous and unpredictable.

Knowing what makes oxidizers dangers can help you guard against accidents involving them.

Oxidizers are "firebugs"

When a fire burns, it needs oxygen to maintain the reaction that feeds the fire. That's why using a bellows makes fires burn hotter, and why smothering a fire makes it go out.

Oxidizers are like chemical bellows. They provide plenty of oxygen to make a fire bigger and hotter.

Inorganic oxidizers can increase the danger of fire around a flammable or combustible materials.

Organic oxidizers are flammable in themselves. Some organic oxidizers can even explode when exposed to heat, shock, or friction.

Oxidizers can supply oxygen to a fire and support combustion even if there is no oxygen present in the air.

Commonly used oxidizers are:

- Concentrated nitric acid.
- Compressed oxygen.
- Hydrogen peroxide.

Keep Oxidizers Separate

Isolate oxidizers

Because oxidizers are "firebugs," keep them away from flammable liquids, wood, paper, and other easy-to-burn materials.

Always keep containers of oxidizers tightly closed and store them in isolation. Store different types of oxidizers separately.

Check containers for leaks, and be sure to use the right container, since some oxidizers can damage seals and valves.

Store large amounts of oxidizers in a separate room with specific fire-protection requirements.

Make sure all containers are clearly labeled.

Report containers with missing or illegible labels.

Emergency Actions

Small spills

If you spill a small amount of oxidizer in a well-ventilated area, wipe it up immediately.

Large spills

Large spills pose an immediate fire hazard. Evacuate the area and report the spill at once.

Leave the cleanup to an emergency response team that has equipment and tools designed to protect them and prevent accidental fires.

Using Oxidizers

Fire response procedures

Because oxidizers are a fire hazard, be sure you are familiar with fire response procedures and the location of fire extinguishers.

Read it's MSDS to become familiar with the hazard its presents before using an oxidizer.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Is it flammable or explosive?
- Is it dangerous when mixed with certain other chemicals?
- In what kind of temporary container can you safely store it?
- Is it corrosive or dangerous to inhale?
- How do you handle a spill or accidental contact with it? Most oxidizers are also corrosive and can irritate skin or lungs.

Take appropriate precaution

Take appropriate precautions, such as wearing personal protective equipment or working under a hood.

By knowing its properties, you can more safely use the oxidizer and prevent accidents.